



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

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Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement of Secretary of Veterans Affairs R. James Nicholson On the Status of the Veterans' Data Theft

"Upon notification, my first priority was to take all actions necessary to protect veterans from harm and to assist in law enforcement efforts.

"I am outraged at the loss of this veterans' data and the fact an employee would put it at risk by taking it home in violation of our policies. I am also concerned about the timing of the Department's response once the burglary became known. I will not tolerate inaction and poor judgment when it comes to protecting our veterans.

"We are engaged in a very extensive review of individuals up and down the chain of command.

"As the person ultimately accountable to America's veterans, I have the duty to know exactly what occurred and to hold people responsible.

"I have asked the Department of Veterans Affairs Inspector General to expedite his investigation into exactly what occurred from the time of the incident to the present.

"I anxiously await the Inspector General's results and will take strong actions upon their review."